1	As recommended by the Committee on Health Care:
2	
3	TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
4	The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.
5	661 entitled "An act relating to licensure of mental health professionals"
6	respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
7	report of the Committee on Government Operations be amended by striking
8	out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
9	* * * Continuing Education Units; Psychologists * * *
10	Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:
11	§ 3015. RENEWALS
12	(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
13	required fee.
14	* * *
15	(d) Continuing education units.
16	(1) As a condition of renewal, the Board may shall require that licensees
17	establish that they have satisfied continuing education requirements established
18	by Board rule and this subsection.
19	(2) Continuing education requirements shall include requiring one or
20	more continuing education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-
21	oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report

1	recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required
2	pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural
3	competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care
4	system.
5	(3) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable
6	and accepted as live in-person training.
7	(4) Upon application, the Board may exempt from continuing education
8	requirements a licensee on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, if obtaining
9	continuing education credits would be impossible in practice or a significant
10	hardship for the licensee.
11	(5) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
12	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
13	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
14	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
15	licensee is licensed under this title.
16	* * * Continuing Education Units; Social Workers * * *
17	Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 3208 is amended to read:
18	§ 3208. RENEWALS
19	* * *
20	(d) As a condition of renewal, a licensee shall complete continuing
21	education, approved by the Director by rule, during the preceding two-year

1	period. For purposes of this subsection, the Director may require, by rule, not
2	more than 20 hours of approved continuing social work education as a
3	condition of renewal. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall
4	be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education
5	requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing education units in
6	the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related
7	topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity
8	Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33,
9	Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in
10	Vermont's health care system. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other
11	mental health professions under this title, continuing education units completed
12	for one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing
13	education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which
14	the licensee is licensed under this title.
15	* * *
16	* * * Continuing Education Units; Alcohol and Drug Abuse
17	Counselors * * *
18	Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 3238 is amended to read:
19	§ 3238. BIENNIAL RENEWALS
20	(a) Licenses and certifications shall be renewed every two years on a
21	schedule set by the Office upon:

1	(1) payment Payment of the required fee; and.
2	(2) documentation <u>Documentation</u> that the applicant has completed at
3	least 40 hours of continuing education, approved by the Director. Synchronous
4	virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and accepted as live
5	in-person training. Continuing education requirements shall include requiring
6	one or more continuing education units in the area of systematic oppression
7	and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report
8	recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required
9	pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural
10	competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care
11	system. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
12	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
13	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
14	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
15	licensee is licensed under this title.
16	* * *
17	* * * Continuing Education Units; Clinical Mental Health
18	Counselors * * *
19	Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 3269 is amended to read:
20	§ 3269. RENEWALS

1	Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of required fees
2	and proof of such continuing education as the Board may require by rule and
3	as required by this section. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits
4	shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing
5	education requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing
6	education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive
7	practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations
8	from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts
9	and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural
10	humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care system. If the licensee is
11	licensed in one or more other mental health professions under this title,
12	continuing education units completed for one mental health profession shall
13	count toward the required continuing education units for the other mental
14	health profession or professions for which the licensee is licensed under this
15	<u>title</u> .
16	* * * Continuing Education Units; Marriage and Family
17	Therapists * * *
18	Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 4040 is amended to read:
19	§ 4040. RENEWALS
20	(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
21	required fee, provided the person applying for renewal has completed at least

1	20 hours of continuing education, approved by the Board, during the preceding
2	two-year period.
3	(1) The Board shall establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for
4	continuing education credit. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits
5	shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing
6	education requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing
7	education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive
8	practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations
9	from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts
10	and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural
11	humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care system.
12	(2) The continuing education requirement shall not apply for the first
13	renewal period. <u>If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health</u>
14	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
15	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
16	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
17	licensee is licensed under this title.
18	* * *
19	* * * Continuing Education Units; Psychoanalysts * * *
20	Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 4060 is amended to read:
21	§ 4060. RENEWALS

1	(a) Certification shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
2	required fee, provided the person applying for renewal completes at least 20
3	hours of continuing education, approved by the Director, during the preceding
4	two-year period.
5	(1) The Director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall
6	establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for continuing education credit.
7	Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and
8	accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education requirements shall
9	include requiring one or more continuing education units in the area of
10	systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas,
11	consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory
12	Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for
13	improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's
14	health care system.
15	(2) The education requirement shall not apply for the first renewal
16	period. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
17	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
18	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
19	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
20	licensee is licensed under this title.
21	* * *

1	* * * Continuing Education Units; Applied Behavior Analysists * * *
2	Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 4925 is amended to read:
3	§ 4925. RENEWALS
4	* * *
5	(c) As a condition of renewal, the Director may by rule require that a
6	licensee establish that he or she the licensee has completed continuing
7	education.
8	(1) The Director may accept proof of current certification from the
9	Behavior Analyst Certification Board as evidence of continuing competency if
10	the Director finds that the maintenance of such certification implies
11	appropriate continuing education consistent with this subsection and Board
12	<u>rule</u> .
13	(2) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable
14	and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education requirements
15	shall include requiring one or more continuing education units in the area of
16	systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas,
17	consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory
18	Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for
19	improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's
20	health care system.

1	(3) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
2	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
3	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
4	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
5	licensee is licensed under this title.
6	* * *
7	* * * Mental Health Professional Licensure; Study * * *
8	Sec. 8. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE; STUDY
9	(a) Study. The Office of Professional Regulation shall conduct a study on:
10	(1) the possibility of streamlining the licensure of mental health
11	professionals practicing in the State, including a review of the feasibility of
12	creating one mental health professional license with endorsements for specific
13	mental health professions;
14	(2) whether additional regulation of supervisors for mental health
15	professionals in training is necessary, including a review of potential limits on
16	areas of mental health work a supervisor may supervise based on the
17	supervisor's own work experience and education, the rate or fee a supervisor
18	may charge for providing supervision, and the number of supervisees assigned
19	to one supervisor; and
20	(3) the barriers for individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or Persons of
21	Color (BIPOC), refugees and new Americans, LGBTQ individuals, individuals

1	with low income, individuals with disabilities, and those individuals with lived
2	mental health and substance use experience entering mental health professions
3	regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.
4	(b) Stakeholder input. The Director of the Office of Professional
5	Regulation shall seek the input and recommendations of the following
6	stakeholders in completing the study:
7	(1) representatives of each mental health care profession associated
8	with the Office of Professional Regulation, selected by their respective
9	licensing board or by the Director;
10	(2) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
11	(3) the Chair of the Health Equity Advisory Commission established
12	pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 252 or designee;
13	(4) representatives of mental health care professional organizations;
14	(5) representatives of health insurers;
15	(6) individuals in mental health care professions or seeking to enter
16	mental health care professions, selected by AALV, Inc., the Vermont
17	Commission on Native American Affairs, the Vermont Center for
18	Independent Living, and Outright Vermont; and
19	(7) other interested stakeholders, including individuals from diverse
20	backgrounds to represent the interests of communities of color and other
21	historically underrepresented populations in mental health care professions.

1	(c) Findings and recommendations. On or before December 15, 2024, the
2	Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall provide the Office's
3	findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and
4	on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Health and
5	Welfare and on Government Operations.
6	* * * Mental Health Professional Supervisors Registry * * *
7	Sec. 9. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISORS; REGISTRY
8	The Office of Professional Regulation shall maintain a registry of mental
9	health professionals who are available to serve as supervisors for mental health
10	professionals in training. The registry shall begin upon passage and shall
11	contain a complete list by 2025.
12	* * * Effective Dates * * *
13	Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES
14	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, except that Secs. 1–7 shall take
15	effect on July 1, 2023.
16	
17	
18	(Committee vote:)
19	
20	Representative
21	FOR THE COMMITTEE